

Application No.: 09/391,762  
Amendment and Response filed on November 3, 2005  
Reply to Office Action of May 3, 2005  
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**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the subject application. Please amend claim 17 as indicated herein.

Claim 1. (Twice Amended) An implantable member for use in repair or replacement [with] within a body comprising an expanded polytetrafluoroethylene substrate having a wall structure including nodes and fibrils with pores present between said nodes and said fibrils, said pores filled with a [fluid which solidifies and is crosslinked to form a solid precipitate of a insoluble biocompatible, biodegradable material of natural origin said material being insoluble at a pH of about 7.4] solid precipitate of a material of natural origin formed *in situ* from a solution that is pH-adjusted within said pores.

Claim 2. (Amended) An implantable member of claim 1, wherein said substrate comprises an implantable tubular prosthesis.

Claim 3. (Amended) An implantable member of claim 1, wherein said substrate comprises an implantable surgical patch.

Claim 4. (Amended) An implantable member of claim 1, wherein said substrate comprises an implantable mesh.

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Claim 5. (Previously Cancelled)

Claim 6. (Previously Cancelled)

Claim 7. (Thrice Amended) An implantable member of claim [6] 1, wherein said [extracellular matrix protein] material of natural origin is selected from the group consisting of [collagen, including] collagen I-V, gelatin, vitronectin, fibronectin, laminin, reconstituted basement membrane matrices, and derivatives and mixtures thereof.

Claim 8. (Previously Cancelled)

Claim 9. (Twice Amended) The prosthesis of claim 1, wherein the [biocompatible, biodegradable material includes] precipitate comprises a pharmacological agent.

Claim 10. (Amended) The prosthesis of claim 9, wherein said [pharmacologically active] pharmacological agent is selected from the group consisting of antimicrobials, antivirals, antibiotics, growth factors, blood clotting modulators, antivirals and mixtures thereof.

Claim 11. (Amended) The prosthesis of claim 1, wherein the polytetrafluoroethylene has been modified to enhance its hydrophilic character.

Claim 12. (Amended) The prosthesis of claim 11, wherein the polytetrafluoroethylene has been subjected to glow discharge plasma deposition.

Claim 13. (Thrice Amended) An implantable prosthesis comprising a body of expanded polytetrafluoroethylene having a structure of spaced apart nodes interconnected by fibrils with pores present between said nodes and said fibrils, wherein a solution of a biodegradable composition having an acidic pH is contained within said pores, wherein said biodegradable composition is capable of forming a precipitate that substantially fills said pores at selected conditions of temperature and pH to form an insoluble substrate site for cellular attachment.

Claim 14. (Amended) An implantable prosthesis of claim 13, wherein said biodegradable composition comprises at least one extracellular matrix protein or gelatin.

Claim 15. (Twice Amended) An implantable prosthesis of claim 14, wherein said extracellular matrix protein or gelatin is selected from the group consisting of collagen I, collagen II, collagen III, collagen IV, collagen V, gelatin, vitronectin, fibronectin, laminin, reconstituted basement membrane matrices and derivatives and mixtures thereof.

Claim 16. (Amended) An implantable prosthesis of claim 14, wherein said extracellular matrix protein comprises collagen.

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Claim 17. (Thrice Amended) An implantable prosthesis of claim 14, wherein a buffered phosphate is added to said composition.

Claim 18. (Amended) An implantable prosthesis of claim 17, wherein said buffered phosphate is maintained at a pH of about 7.4.

Claim 19. (Amended) An implantable prosthesis of claim 13, wherein the biodegradable composition further comprises a pharmacological agent.

Claim 20. (Amended) An implantable prosthesis of claim 19, wherein said pharmacological agent is selected from the group consisting of antimicrobials, antivirals, antibiotics, growth factors, blood clotting modulators, antivirals and mixtures thereof.

Claim 21. An implantable member for use in repair or replacement within a body comprising an expanded polytetrafluoroethylene substrate having a wall structure including nodes and fibrils with pores present between said nodes and said fibrils, said pores substantially filled with a solid precipitate of a material of natural origin formed *in situ* from a solution that is pH-adjusted within said pores.

Claim 22. The implantable member of claim 1, wherein the solution has an acidic pH.

Claim 23. The implantable member of claim 22, wherein the solution has a pH from about 2 to about 4.

Claim 24. The implantable member of claim 21, wherein the solution has an acidic pH.

Claim 25. The implantable member of claim 24, wherein the solution has a pH from about 2 to about 4.

Claim 26. The implantable member of claim 1, wherein the solution is pH-adjusted to a pH of about 7.4.

Claim 27. The implantable member of claim 21, wherein the solution is pH-adjusted to a pH of about 7.4.

Claim 28. (Amended) The implantable prosthesis of claim 13, wherein the solution is pH-adjusted to a pH of about 7.4 to form an insoluble substrate site for cellular attachment.

Claim 29. An intermediate implantable member for use in repair or replacement within a body comprising an expanded polytetrafluoroethylene substrate having a wall structure including nodes and fibrils, with pores present between said nodes and said fibrils, said pores filled with an acidic fluid.

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Claim 30. The implantable member of claim 29, wherein the fluid is capable of forming a solid precipitate.

Claim 31. (Amended) The implantable member of claim 30, wherein the fluid solidifies and is crosslinkable to form a solid precipitate of an insoluble, biocompatible, biodegradable material of natural origin.